

of American sewing machines stitching
 Yorkshire cloth!
 One of these tailors has made a heavy cloth
 ulster for
 me, which the American ladies pronounce
 perfect in fit
 and " style!"

The Armenians, with their usual industry
 and thrift,
 are always enlarging their commerce and
 introducing
 new imports. Better than this, they are
 paying great
 attention to education, and several of their
 merchants
 seem to be actuated by a liberal and
 enlightened spirit.
 It is, however, to usury not less than to
 trade that they
 owe their prosperity. The presence of
 Europeans
 in Van, in the persons of the missionaries
 and vice-
 consuls, in addition to the admirable
 influence exerted
 by the former, has undoubtedly a growing
 tendency
 towards ameliorating the condition of the
 Christian
 population.

In the *vilayet* of Van it is estimated by
 Colonel Severs
 Bell that the Christians outnumber the
 Moslems by
 80,000, the entire population being
 estimated at 340,000.
 In the city of Van, with a population
 estimated by him
 at 32,000, the Christians are believed to be
 as 3 to 1.¹

The formalities required for Turkish
 travelling are
 many and increasing, and from ignorance of
 one of them
 Johannes has been arrested, and Mirza
 marched to the
 Consulate by the police. I have been
 obliged to part
 with the former and send him back to
 Hamadan, as it
 would not be safe to take the risky journey
 to Erzerum
 with such an inexperienced and
 untrustworthy servant.

Through Mr. Devey's kindness I have
obtained an
interpreter and servant in. Murphy
O'Rourke, a British
subject, but a native of Turkey, and equally at
home in
English, Turkish, and Armenian, though
totally illiterate.

I. L. B.

¹ An estimate by Mr. Devey, Her Britannic Majesty's
Vice-Consul at
Van, gives a population of only 250,000 for the whole
vilayet.